



INDEXA

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Helping to Make DX Happen Since 1983

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Issue 131

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SPOTLIGHT—INDEXA PRESIDENT

BOB SCHENCK—N200

Bob was first licensed in February 1965 as WN2RJJ. He was first initiated into ham radio during the Novice Roundup! CW came naturally for Bob. In April of the same year at the age of 14, Bob upgraded to General becoming WB2RJJ. Once he upgraded, he would quickly become interested in HF activities including contests, DX-chasing and traffic handling. In 1976 Bob upgraded to EXTRA and in 1977 changed his call to N200.



Bob in Hong Kong VS6AK on way to Brunei & Spratly Islands Mar '79. His first time operating on a DXpedition

Bob's keen interest in DXpeditions started when he befriended Ray Brown, ZL4LR/a on the air from Campbell Island in 1978. During nightly skeds, Chuck ZL1ADI offered to assist Bob with helping Ray work people. Chuck just happened to be involved in a DXpedition being planned for the Spratly Islands with Harry Meade, VK2BJL. Bob offered to assist from the USA



Amboyna Cay upon arrival by the 1S1DX team just before mortar rounds were fired

and ended up joining the team. Bob coordinated USA support along with team partner Stew Woodward K4SMX. The team met in Brunei in March 1979 and set sail for Amboyna Cay on the ketch Banyandah. After 2 ½ days sailing the calm waters of the South China Sea, the team (VK2BJL, K4SMX, K1MM, N2OO, N4WW, KP2A) arrived at Amboyna Cay. What was thought to be an uninhabited 900 foot wide sand cay, was found to have an encampment on it. After a short time sitting less than a mile off shore, a gun emplacement fired 4 mortar rounds at the sailboat. Luckily, all missed and the boat retreated back to Brunei. After some research at the library in Brunei, a couple of other possible operating sites were selected and 3 team members (K4SMX, VK2BJL and K1MM) decided to head out again. Bob and John KP2A decided to remain in Brunei to provide better communications with the crew on the boat and to mount a backup operation from Brunei. Bob was VS5OO and this would become Bob's very first major DXpedition operation making 10,000 QSO's operating solo for 10 days. At that time, Brunei was a fairly rare DX location with little activity. The 3 team members who went for the second attempt found an uninhabited island and put 1S1DX on the air for 70 hours making over 13,000 QSO's. Bob has returned to Brunei several times over the years making many DXers worldwide very happy. In 1999, Bob was an honored guest at the SEANET Convention in Brunei where he was credited with helping expand interest in Amateur Radio in Brunei over the years.

In 1980 Bob organized a DXpedition (9M6MU with team N2OO, N2CW, KP2A, VS5TX) to East Malaysia where he befriended the team's host Alfons Undan 9M6MU. East Malaysia was also a fairly rare DX location at that time. Bob and Alfons spoke about the possibility of opening

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up his home to visiting hams from around the world. In 1997, Alfons would finally create this dream by building the Hillview Gardens Resort with a direct focus on ham radio. A club station was created (9M6AAC/9M6A) and hams were invited to visit the resort. Bob's efforts in support of this station has helped make 9M6 a fairly common DXCC entity over the years. Since opening in 1997, the station has made well over 200,000 QSO's.

With local support in Sabah, Bob was also able to organize two very successful DXpeditions to the Spratly Islands (9M6OO/p in 1997 and 1999).

Over the years that followed that infamous 1979 Spratly operation, Bob operated, organized and/or participated in many DXpeditions including VS6AK, (1S1DX), 9M6MU, KP2A/D, KP2A/KP1, N2OO/SV1, SV5/N2OO (2 operations), XX9OO, VS6/N2OO, N2OO/KH9, 9M6OO/Spratly (2 operations), VS5OO/V85OM/V85OO (five operations), N2OO/KP2, N2OO/KH9, KH6/N2OO, 9M6AAC/9M6A/9M6HIL/9M6OO

(7 operations), BW4/N2OO, BQ9P, VK9LA, VK6FZM/MM, FT5ZM, N2OO/VP9. He has operated from several US IOTA's and special events. In 1991, Bob got married! He and his new bride Beth KF2BQ went on a 5 week Honeymoon DXpedition to Brunei (V85OO/V85XYL), Sabah, East Malaysia (9M6OO/9M6BQ), Singapore (short visit with 9V1YQ) and Hong Kong (VS6/N2OO-VS6/KF2BQ).

He also has been a very active QSL manager handling well over 200 calls including 3Y0X, VU7RG/VU7MY, K5D, HK0NA, FT5ZM, K1N, VP8STI/VP8SGI mega-DXpeditions. He also handles QSL's for the multiple IOTA operations by YF1AR in Indonesia. Bob took over the King Hussein (JY1) logs from Mary Ann WA3HUP after she became a SK. In 2018, the YASME Foundation transferred all of the Lloyd (W6KG) and Iris (W6QL) Colvin logs to Bob for safe keeping, scanning, and continued QSL management.

In 2001, Bob organized the QSL Manager's Society which is a web based point of contact for "quality" QSL Managers to offer their services. All members must agree to a "QSL Manager's Creed" which includes "honorable" direct mail QSLing as well as QSLing via the bureau, etc.

One of the reasons Bob organized the "QSL Managers Society" was because of his personal frustration hearing about other QSL managers "closing" logs. He felt that all DX logs are part of our DX heritage and should be preserved, and QSL cards should continuously be made



N2OO arrives at Amsterdam Island for FT5ZM DXpedition in 2014

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available. QSL Manager's Society members pledge to make sure that family members know what to do with any logs and blank cards in the event of their becoming a silent key. If no one locally is available, they can contact the Society for transfer of the logs/cards.

In March 2003, Bob was approached by Bob Young K4JDJ. He was moving in a couple of weeks and he needed to off load all the logs and blank cards that he had accumulated as a busy QSL Manager. K4JDJ had taken over all of the QSL managing duties from John Parrott W4FRU after John became a silent key. There turned out to be 60 logs and over 100,000 blank QSL cards. All of the logs were paper logs. These were all heading to the trash if no one offered to take them over. Among these were some major operations including VK0IR, E30GA, FB8WJ, etc. Bob drove down to Virginia and filled the bed of his pickup truck with all of the boxes of logs and QSL cards. Upon returning to his home, Bob sorted them out and divided the logs and cards among 13 QSL Manager Society members thus saving all of the logs collected from being trashed. Since that time, Bob has redirected many other older DX logs.

In 2008 Bob was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame.

Bob's dedication to the DX world encompasses many different directions. DXpeditioner, Contester, QSL Manager.... But he still finds time to actively participate in local ham radio organizations; always promoting and informing them about the world of DX.

Bob has been on over 40 DX and IOTA DXpeditions since 1979. He is a QSL Manager for well over 200 calls. He helped to organize and run several DX amateur radio organizations over the years including the South Jersey DX Association, the International DX Foundation (IDXF), the International DX Association



**N2OO, W2NO and KZ2I operating at the SJDXA club station
N2CW in the 2020 CQWW 160 SSB Contest February 2020**

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(INDEXA) and the QSL Manager's Society. Bob's ongoing support and presence in Sabah (9M6OO) and Brunei (V85OO) has helped make these countries relatively easy ones to work; not only through his own operations, but through his past and ongoing friendships and support given to ham radio in those areas.

Bob has been the President of the South Jersey DX Association www.sjdxa.org since its beginning in 1977. Members of SJDXA support many DXpedition QSL projects.

In 2012, Bob was elected to the Board of Directors of the International DX Association (INDEXA) www.indexa.org. In September 2017, Bob was elected President of INDEXA. In January 2015, Bob became the DX Editor for CQ Magazine.

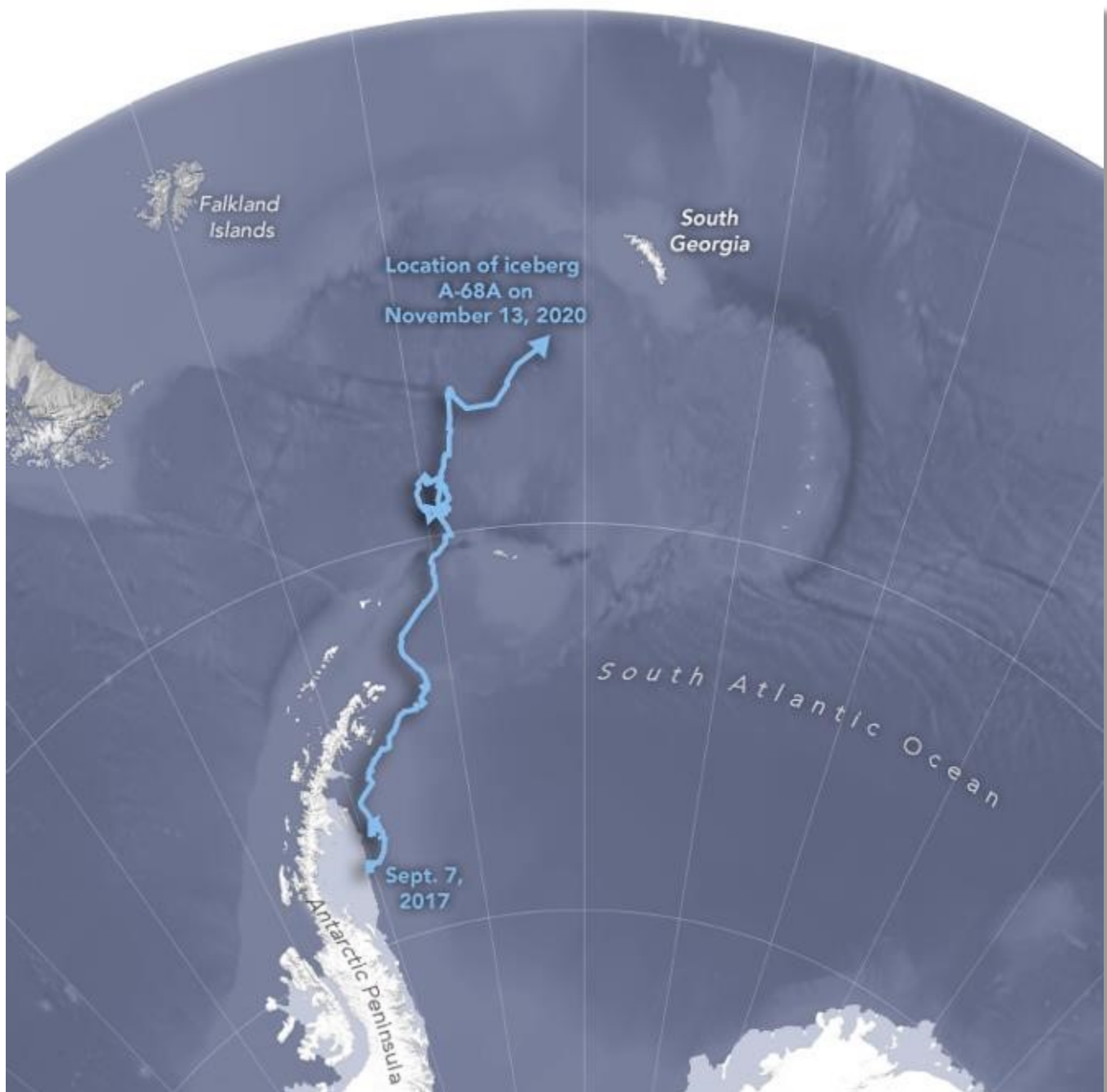


N2TU and N2OO at the INDEXA Booth at Hamcation, Orlando 2018

Massive Iceberg Bears Down on South Georgia Island

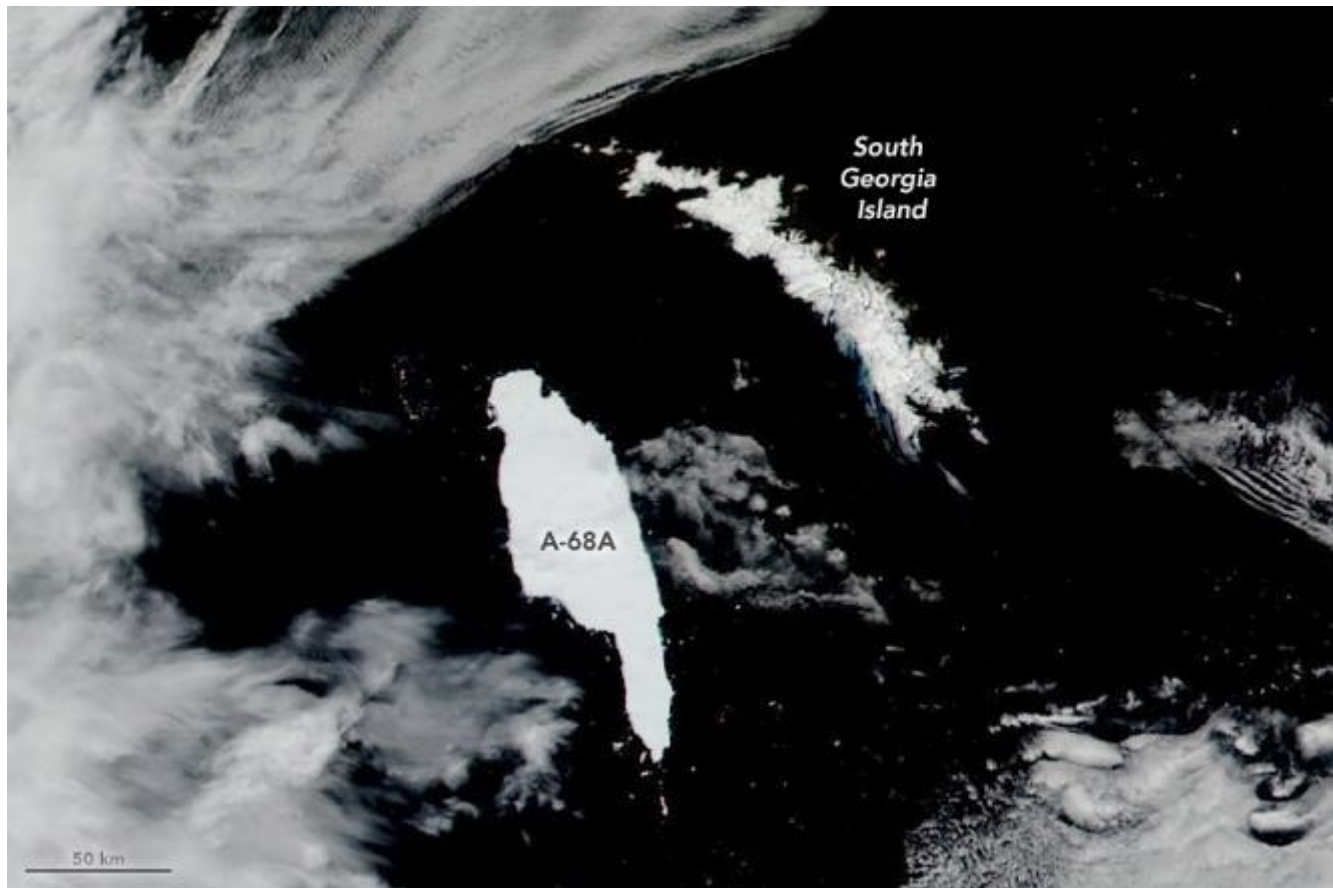
By John Scott, K8YC

In July 2017, a large section of ice broke off the Larsen Ice Shelf near the Antarctic Peninsula. Now this was not just a “piece” of ice—it was a 1,500 square mile piece measuring about 94 miles long by 30 miles wide. Over the past three years various scientific groups and governmental agencies have been carefully watching the wanderings of this ice. It was so significant of a piece of ice it was given the designation A-68a by observers, and is so big it can be tracked by satellite imaging. The map shown below shows the path of A-68a since it broke away from the Larsen Ice Shelf in 2017. The data for the track is based on the Antarctic Iceberg Tracking Database created in 1999 by BYU scientist David Long and his colleagues after tracking a similarly large berg (B-10A) in that era.



Normally in wandering northerly, most ice melts and breaks into smaller pieces having more surface area which promotes faster melting, but this was not a small piece of ice! The wanderings have been helped by north flowing ocean currents coming from the Weddell Sea east of the Antarctic Peninsula. In April 2020, the path seemed to cause worry that the South Orkney's (VP8) might be in jeopardy, but the ice bypassed South Orkneys. As November, 2020 rolled into view, it appeared that South Georgia was directly in the path of the flow which, while having developed a few fissures, is still largely intact.

Scientists have concerns that this large mass of ice might get “stuck” on South Georgia and have some grave ecological consequences. The berg is known to be about 200 meters thick and that depth is found offshore of South Georgia by many miles. One such fear is the reduction in the salinity of the water caused by the melting of such a large ice mass and the effect it would have on aquatic life. South Georgia has a huge penguin colony, and some species of penguins there feed on tiny shrimplike organisms called krill which are found deep in the ocean. Thus, food chains for many creatures might be severely disrupted. On the positive side, the berg is known to have captured nutrients from atmospheric dust from

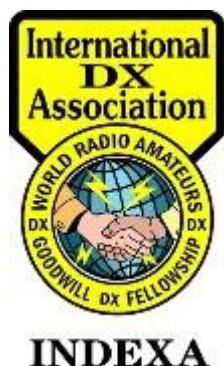


hundreds, if not thousands, of years ago. That dust, released by melting might deposit nutrients in the waters around South Georgia and produce some favorable changes yet to be seen.

Reports in the time period around December 22 shows some large pieces have broken off of A-68a and were large enough to be given their own designations of A-68d, e, and f. Scientists are not yet sure if the fracturing might be because of the bottom of the iceberg contacting the land shelf that forms South Georgia. Depths off South Georgia are about 200 meters, and Penguins are known to dive this deep in search of krill. The next days will show whether A-68a has been stalled by possible grounding.

One scenario that scientists are concerned about is that ocean and wind currents move A-68a southeasterly around the southeast end of South Georgia Island and then have it get caught in a swirling eddy of water on the leeward side of the island which would bring the large ice mass back to “park” on the easterly side of the island and remain there indefinitely. This would surely change the longer term salinity of the water in the area and significantly affect the ecological balance of both sea and land-based life.

South Georgia may be a different place when the next DXpedition visits there.



From the President – Dec 24, 2020

2020 is almost over! From a DXer's point of view, it couldn't come sooner. Minimum sunspots. The COVID-19 pandemic. Travel restrictions worldwide. Not to mention so many other "things" that happened... or didn't happen in the world of DX. Let's go 2021!

Specifically, in the world of DX we saw the virus cause a near shut down of flights worldwide. This pretty much put a stop/hold on DXpeditions. The only DXpedition we supported was TI9A. INDEXA pre-qualified support to W8S Swains Island and CY0C Sable Island which were both postponed. Other DXpeditions are surely being planned for the post pandemic, and for better sunspots I am sure.

To review, in order to preserve our financial resources, we only consider funding support applications for the top 60 DXCC entities. We use Club Log's Most Wanted list using the no mode filter, all bands, global log settings. Our primary focus is on "All Time New Ones" (ATNO's). Last year we decided to set aside a modest fund dedicated to supporting DXpeditions that do not make the top 60 but that we consider to be "worthy of some support". No support from this fund was made in 2020 mostly due to the pandemic. We will be replicating this fund for 2021. All who request funding must agree with INDEXA DXpedition fair play policies as detailed in our online funding application.

Our "Hams with Hearts" humanitarian aid fund was created in 2016 by a generous contribution from Zorro JH1AJT. To qualify for humanitarian grants, DXpeditions must present a clear plan for a humanitarian project to coincide with their DXpedition. The project must provide direct, physical benefit to the local population and go beyond leaving behind ham equipment, making a video, or giving a class in amateur radio. Examples of acceptable projects include, but are not limited to, providing school supplies, clothing, medical supplies, first aid equipment, water purification supplies, etc. We therefore will be seeking low cost but high impact projects. INDEXA suggests that humanitarian grants be focused on the top 100 DXCC entities as listed on Club Log's current Most Wanted List using "No Mode Filter, All Bands and Global Log". In every case, the INDEXA board will review the plans and make a decision as to whether or not to fund the project.

INDEXA has been granted tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. For U.S. tax payers this means that your donations to INDEXA are now tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. If you have already made a contribution to INDEXA in 2020, then

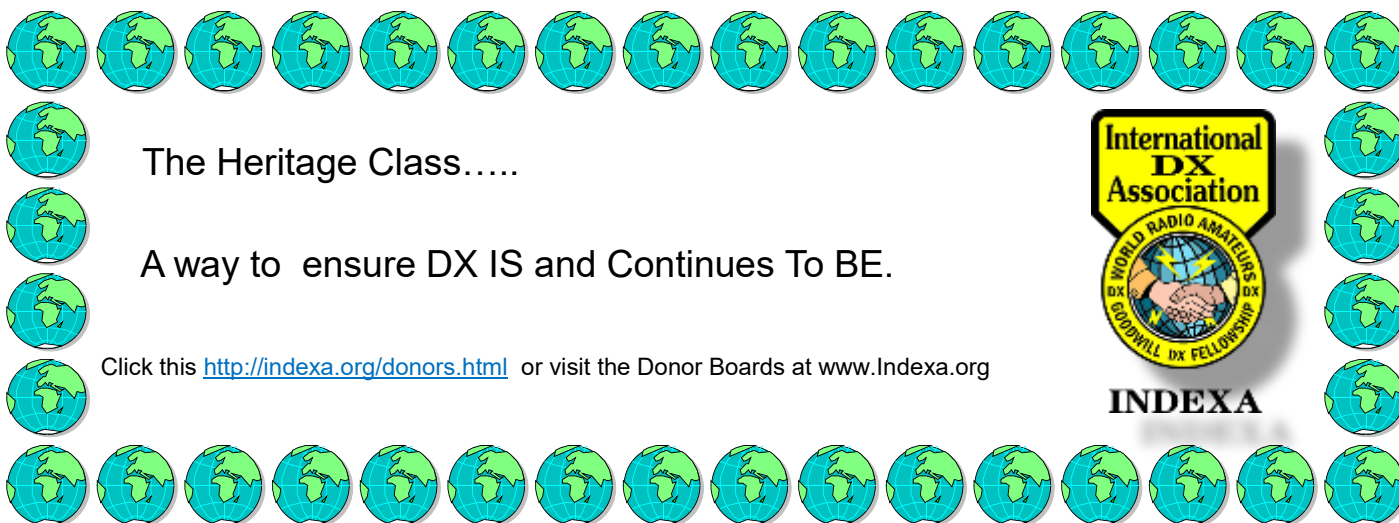
THANK YOU! If not, would you consider making one? Do you have a ham radio friend, local or DX that you would like to give a worthy gift to? How about a GIFT INDEXA membership for the holidays? Membership is only \$20/year. [Indexa Application](#)

If you are thinking about naming INDEXA in your will or other estate plans, consider joining our Heritage Class. All that is needed is that you pledge to include INDEXA in your plans. We will then add you to our "Heritage Class" listing on the INDEXA web page under the "DONORS" tab. Contact our treasurer for more details. treasurer@indexa.org

Let's all hope that 2021 will be a great year for DXing! I am so much looking forward to the bands getting some mega-DXpedition activity again! Let me personally thank all of you for your continued support! Wishing you and your families have a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a blessed wonderful Holiday Season. May you all have good health and lots of good DX in 2021! Please stay safe and we will all get through this together!

See ya' in the pileups!

Bob Schenck, N200
INDEXA President



YB2TJV / YB2CW Halim “Dani” Hidayat SK

It is with great sadness to report that INDEXA lost a great ham and INDEXA contributor this month to Covid-19. Dani designed the current INDEXA logo as well as the Ham With Hearts logo. Our deepest condolences go out to his friends and family.



Dani receiving his K1N Dxpediton of the year plaque from Dennis K7BV

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Editor & Publisher Valerie Hotzfeld NV9L PO Box 83
Crescent City, IL 60928 USA vhotzfeld (at) Gmail. com

Distribution & Circulation Dick Williams, W3OA
398 Lakeview Shores Loop Mooresville, NC 28117 USA
Secretary (at) indexa.org

Membership applications are available at:
www.indexa.org/application.html

Address general correspondence to President Bob Schenck, N2OO
N2OO (at) comcast.net



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